

REMARKS

The Applicants have reviewed the Office Action mailed September 6, 2006. Claims 1, and 4 - 9 have been amended in this response. Claims 2, 3, and 10-26 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 27-44 have been added. Claims 1, 4-9, and 27-44 are pending.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC § 103

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 1-26 under § 103 in view of Granstrom (US Patent Number 6,667,860). Claims 2, 3, and 10-26 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. At least claims 1, 27, and 41 recite elements not taught or suggested by Granstrom.

For example, Granstrom fails to teach or suggest a preamplifier integrated circuit having “a passive non-linear shunt protective device connected to the at least one terminal, the passive non-linear shunt protective device providing a shunt conductance when the voltage potential is above the threshold,” as in claim 1.

Also, Granstrom fails to teach or suggest a data storage device having “a non-linear shunt protective device coupling the preamplifier and the element, the shunt protective device providing a shunt conductance when the voltage potential is above the threshold,” as in claim 27.

In addition, Granstrom fails to teach or suggest a head stack assembly having “a non-linear shunt protective device coupling the preamplifier and the element, the shunt protective device providing a shunt conductance when the voltage potential is above the threshold,” as in claim 41.

Claims 4-9, 28-40, and 42-45 are allowable as dependent claims depending from one of the allowable independent claims 1, 27, or 41.

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For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all § 103 rejections.

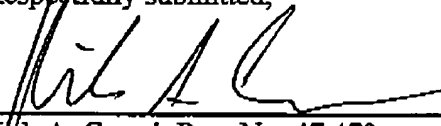
CONCLUSION

For at least the above reasons, claims 1, 4-9, and 27-44 are believed to be patentable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 4-9 is respectfully requested. Allowance of claims 1, 4-9, and 27-44 is respectfully requested.

Any changes to the claims in this amendment, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims. If, for any reason, the Office is unable to allow the Application on the next Office Action, and believes a telephone interview would be helpful, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney or agent. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,



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11-29-06

Date